

school's first National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) championship game on December 17, 2011. The Cougars, who call my district home, will compete for the title in Rome, Georgia, against Carroll College of Montana.

St. Xavier defeated Marian University on December 3rd to go 13-1 for the season and earn a trip to the title game. Marian was the only school to defeat St. Xavier this year, and the Cougars avenged their loss in exciting fashion to earn their title birth. With SXU leading by three points in the final moments of the game, Marian was threatening to score with a first-and-goal situation. On third down, SXU freshman Clayton Fejedelem intercepted a pass in the end zone to seal the victory.

The Cougars' potent spread offense was on full display in the second half of the contest with three touchdowns through the air. St. Xavier's offense leads the NAIA in scoring offense with 45.9 points per game. Just as impressive was the defense as it held Marian's star running back to just 26 yards on 16 carries.

SXU had come close in the past, making it to the NAIA semifinals three times before, but this year the fourth time was the charm. When the Cougars face Carroll College tomorrow, I am confident they will be ready to take on the Fighting Saints. Please join me in honoring the St. Xavier University Cougars football team and their head coach, Mike Feminis, on competing in the NAIA National Championship and sealing their place as a perennial football powerhouse. May they perform like champions and bring back a national championship trophy.

IRAN THREAT REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, while I am deeply concerned about Iran's capacity to develop nuclear weapons and I support targeted sanctions against Iran, I voted no on H.R. 1905, the Iran Threat Reduction Act of 2011 because I do not believe it would accomplish its stated goal of reducing the threat from Iran.

I am concerned that at a time when more nuanced diplomatic tools are needed to successfully address this important and multifaceted effort to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, this legislation would dangerously limit the flexibility of the U.S. Government to engage directly with Iran to turn back these efforts. The Administration has made it clear that the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions Accountability and Divestment Act (CISADA), enacted just last year after careful deliberation by both the House and Senate, is an adequate and effective tool for addressing the threat potentially posed through multilateral negotiations with Iran. I have spoken directly with officials at the State Department and they tell me they are very concerned that piling on additional sanctions could have the counter-

productive result of sending the already destabilized economies of our European allies into a tailspin and threaten the stability of the global economic recovery.

I am also troubled by the 601(c) provision inserted during mark-up of the bill, which takes the unprecedented step of restricting dialogue between U.S. and Iranian officials. The controversial provision would prohibit contact between U.S. diplomats and any Iranian official who "would pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the vital national security interests of the United States." This is dangerous and would have prohibited the efforts that secured the release of two of my constituents, Sarah Shourd and Shane Bauer, along with their friend and fellow U.C. Berkeley alumnus Josh Fattal, who were detained for years in Iran after being arrested while hiking near Iran's border with Northern Iraq. Furthermore, not only is it unclear how restricting negotiations with Iran on its nuclear program would advance our security interests, it should be clear that taking this option off the table is counterproductive in addressing the very real threats that Iran presents.

It is my hope that my colleagues will address these issues in conference and return a bill for final passage that considers what it takes to effectively undertake national security strategy execution. It is time for us to stop posturing and to understand that far from a reward to withhold, diplomacy is a critical tool for protecting United States national security interests.

IN HONOR OF ALBERT CASWELL AND THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR NATION'S ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at local hospitals to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit before you a poem, authored by Albert, reflecting on the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men and women of our Nation's Armed Services.

CHRISTMAS TEARS

This Christmas season, as you awake. . . .
Please, so take the time to so take. . . .
To remember in this December, all of those
families whose hearts now quake. . . .
For they are so separated, so far across the
shores . . . by such dark and most evil
war. . . .
All in fear, not knowing . . . if but their
loved ones may live but one day more.
. . . .
So say a prayer. . . .
Because, there will be tears across this nation. . . . Christmas Tears. . . .
And as you so see the smiles upon your children's faces. . . .

Remember, there are such men and women of honor, fighting all in such dark places.

. . . .
Giving all of their treasure, oh yes That Last Full Measure . . . so you may live in peace. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, for all of them and all of these so here . . . Our Patriots of Peace!

And all of the ones, who now so in hospitals, who have so just begun their new battles in this new year. So shed a tear.

. . . .
For the ones who now so live without arms and legs, and holes in all places . . . teaching us all what faith is!

For them all so shed a tear!

And for all of those most magnificent ones, as Thy Will Be Done, On Earth As It Is In Heaven now in the ground . . . for freedom won! Shed a tear. . . .

For all those little boys and girls, who have just lost their best friends in the world. . . .

Its so sad now, shed a tear. . . .

And as you so sing your songs of joy, remember all of these little girls and boys in your hearts so very loud! And shed a tear. . . .

And in this evening as you break your bread, remember to say a prayer for all those whom have bled!

All so you can be free and live in peace. . . . Please shed a tear, and say a prayer for all of these. . . .

A child is born. . . .

As we remember on this golden morn. . . .

Remember all of their Christian Acts, for their courage does not lack. . . .

So for all of our Armed Forces, shed a tear.

. . . .
Say a prayer, that they will all be home one day . . . safe and sound in the coming years. . . .

And on this Christmas night as you so lay yourself down to sleep. . . .

All in your hearts, so very deep. . . . Say a prayer. . . .

That our Lord will so watch over all of these.

. . . .

And say a prayer for peace . . . do so please.

. . . .

Now, on this night from high above. . . .

But comes a gentle rain, soft falling snow flakes from our Lord all in his love.

. . . .

All for their selfless sacrifice, all of these fine men and women who now must fight. . . .

Are but our Lord's tears, for all these and their families on this night. . . .

So say a prayer and shed a tear, and so pray that they will all be back next year.

. . . .

But, with their loved ones, on Christmas night. . . .

Lord God, Bless Them. . . . Bless Them All! Thank Them All. . . .

And say a prayer and shed a tear for all those most magnificent families and heroes who answer the call!

Thank them all and shed a tear.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on December 14, 2011, I inadvertently cast "yea" votes on the final passage of H.R. 1905 and H.R. 2105. I am opposed to both bills.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNIE B. BOOKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURNOF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ms. Johnnie B. Booker on the occasion of her retirement from the Coca-Cola Company. Ms. Booker's career has been marked by an extraordinary record of success as a corporate executive, national expert on workforce and supplier diversity, and senior federal government official.

Ms. Booker has served as Global Director of Supplier Diversity for the Coca-Cola Company since 2001. In this capacity, she has been responsible for developing and implementing the company's supplier diversity program and initiatives to assure equal contracting opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses. During her first year with Coca-Cola, contracts with minority- and women-owned businesses increased over the previous year by 50 percent, exceeding the company's goal by 27 percent. Under Ms. Booker's leadership, the company has consistently exceeded its goals for subsequent years, and its supplier diversity profile has grown substantially in actual dollars expended and global recognition.

Mr. Speaker, I might add that this is Ms. Booker's second retirement. Before joining Coca-Cola, she had a successful career in the federal government, culminating in her role as Director of the Office of Equal Opportunity at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), from which she retired in 1996. In 1991, Ms. Booker joined the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) as Vice President, Division of Minority and Women's Programs. While at the RTC, she created unprecedented contracting and investment opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses and law firms. She commissioned the first disparity study by a federal agency and increased contracting fees for minority- and women-owned businesses from 18 percent to over 48 percent and from 3 to 26 percent for minority- and women-owned law firms. Her work at the RTC served as a model for other federal agencies as well as private companies seeking to establish viable minority procurement programs.

Prior to her tenure at the RTC, Ms. Booker served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, she established a new office of affirmative action and equal opportunity and successfully revamped the Department's fragmented approach to discrimination complaint processing and affirmative employment programs. Ms. Booker also served in executive capacities with the Federal Home Loan Bank Board and the National Urban League.

Active in her community, Ms. Booker serves on the boards of the National Minority Supplier Development Council, Women's Business Enterprise National Council, US Pan Asian Chamber of Commerce, Bronx Community College Foundation, the Ashley Stewart Foundation, National Advisory Board of the Whitney M. Young, Jr., School of Social Work—Clark Atlanta University and the Supplier Diversity Council of The Conference Board. Her civic affiliations include Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Dogwood City Chapter of The Links, Inc., Circle-Lets, The National Black Child Develop-

ment Institute, NAACP, Urban League and Big Bethel AME Church. Ms. Booker has appeared in a myriad of national publications and has received numerous honors and awards for her outstanding professional contributions and accomplishments.

Ms. Booker received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Hampton University and a Master of Social Work Degree from the Atlanta University School of Social Work. She is the proud mother of a son, S. Courtney Booker, III, mother-in-law of Nissa and grandmother of two wonderful grandchildren, Dalyn and Aiden, who bring her special joy. I know that she is looking forward to being able to spend more time with them in retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the entire House join me in congratulating Ms. Johnnie B. Booker on this well deserved retirement. I wish her good health and Godspeed.

HONORING SARAH SMIERCIAK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2011 RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKIOF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sarah Smierciak, a graduate of my alma mater, Northwestern University, who was recently awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Ms. Smierciak hails from Lemont and majored in History and in Middle East Language and Civilization. She studied Arabic at the American University in Cairo and Damascus University. She is also an accomplished triathlete and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

Established in 1903, Rhodes Scholarships are awarded to outstanding well-rounded students to attend Oxford University for post-graduate study. The selection committee identifies young men and women of outstanding intellect, character, leadership, and commitment to service. Over 830 of our nation's top students applied and Sarah was awarded one of only 83 Rhodes Scholarships.

Ms. Smierciak's work and experiences demonstrate that she is a very deserving choice for this prestigious scholarship. She has published articles on social justice and published her photography, and serves as a docent on Egyptian art at The Field Museum.

Fluent in Arabic, she currently resides in Egypt, where she is promoting the value of education by assisting orphans in the aftermath of the Egyptian Revolution. Through her work with the international charity, FACE for Children in Need, she is working to develop a teaching curriculum for the street children of Egypt and Sudan. She remains tireless in her devotion to helping these young boys appreciate the need for education.

Ms. Smierciak plans to use her Rhodes Scholarship to pursue developmental studies at Oxford University. She aspires to one day be an advisor at the United Nations.

I ask you to join me in honoring Ms. Sarah Smierciak, a member of the Rhodes Scholarship Class of 2012, and may she have success in all her endeavors to promote the value of education throughout the United States and the world.

RECOGNIZING RADM MICHAEL A. BROWN

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGRENOF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, December 16, 2011*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Rear Admiral Michael A. Brown for his distinguished service to the Government of the United States as the Director, Cybersecurity Coordination, National Protection and Programs Directorate, and Senior Department of Homeland Security Cybersecurity Representative to the National Security Agency and the United States Cyber Command from December 2010 to January 2012.

Rear Admiral Brown is a national level leader on cybersecurity, a matter of highest importance to the nation's national security, homeland defense and economic competitiveness. Since the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security each bring different authorities, capabilities and cultures to this national challenge, the nation needed an astute solution provider and consensus builder in each of these areas. Handpicked to bridge the two leading Departments in this mission space, he quickly earned the respect of each due to his intellect, skill and determination for national-level solutions and brought the Departments closer together.

Rear Admiral Brown's sound advice routinely developed and informed policy and operations positions taken by senior decision makers at the national level, thereby advancing national and international cybersecurity policy and critical legislative proposals needed to change the nation's antiquated cybersecurity-related laws. Few people had a bigger role at increasing the understanding and appreciation of the complexity and relationship between policy, technology and operations required to secure our nation's public and private infrastructure.

Rear Admiral Brown's leadership was crucial in the execution of a first-of-its-kind government-wide boundary cyber defense system to which the U.S.'s foreign intelligence system would be connected, to setting the course to transform DHS's cyber operational centers into national assets, to creating the public-private partnerships necessary to jointly operate to mitigate extraordinarily pressing nation state, crime, and hacktivist cyber threats.

The National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center was another of his notable achievements providing the vision and execution to make it operational. Both a warrior and innovative thinker, he seamlessly worked with government and private sector counterparts to strengthen and support operational partnerships.

During a perilous time for our nation, in which our adversaries' ability and will to steal and control our national assets through cyberspace often far outpaces our posture to stop it, Rear Admiral Brown helped set the necessary strategic direction by unifying the Federal Executive branch, state and local government, the U.S. critical infrastructure community, and the private sector. His leadership culminated in a White House-supported effort that defined a national plan for unified public and private response to malicious activity under the National Cyber Incident Response Plan.